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the American visitors sailed from America on July 22, no intimation of the coming war had reached them. They arrived in New Zealand on August 13, in the early stages of the war, but the plans were not wholly abandoned. The committee in charge of the New Zealand meetings decided that they would like to have the American visitors lecture, each of them giving at least one lecture. Most of the American visitors have now returned to their homes.

News of the Routledge expedition to Easter Island is given in the *Geographical Journal*. Mr. Routledge writes little as to the scientific work so far accomplished, merely observing that the remarkable antiquities of the island were being examined by the party. He gives some account of disturbances in the island, due to unrest among the native Kanakas, about 250 in number. The main or only industry of the island—cattle rearing—is carried on by a company under the direction of an English manager, the only permanent white resident. Thefts of cattle and other property of the company had already been rife, when the natives put in a claim to the possession of all the cattle on the island—some 15,000 head—and began to destroy them wholesale. Such was the state of affairs, when the Chilean warship which visits the island every two or three years put in an opportune appearance, and for the moment relieved the situation. Four of the ringleaders were deported, but Mr. Routledge is inclined to anticipate further trouble. He describes the natives as unenterprising, and loath to work even for their own living.

THE United States Bureau of Mines has begun the collection of a general library of petroleum literature under the direction of W. A. Williams, chief petroleum technologist. The details of this work have been assigned to Dr. David T. Day, who has recently been transferred from the United States Geological Survey as petroleum technologist, and who will also assist in a thoroughly organized research into the chemistry of oils, which is being developed by the Bureau of Mines. It is hoped all technologists will aid in the work by exchanging with the bureau all available books and maps on this subject.

A MEETING was held on November 4, at the offices of the British Medical Association, to consider the position of the Belgian medical men and pharmacists, whose professional position has been involved in the utter ruin which has fallen upon their country and has destroyed the whole machinery of the medical profession and its adjuncts. The meeting was convened by the editors of the *Lancet* and the *British Medical Journal*, from which latter journal we take this reproduction, in response to representations made by a provisional Belgian committee, whose representative, Professor C. Jacobs, is now in London. Sir Rickman Godlee took the chair, and after a brief explanation of the position by Professor Jacobs, the following committee was appointed, with power to add to their number, to make an early report on the procedure to be adopted: Sir Thomas Barlow, president of the Royal College of Physicians of London; Sir Watson Cheyne, president, and Sir Frederic Eve, vice-president, of the Royal College of Surgeons of England; Dr. Meredith Townsend, master of the Apothecaries' Company; Sir Rickman Godlee; Dr. Frederick Taylor, president of the Royal Society of Medicine; Mr. T. Jenner Verrall, chairman of representative meetings of the British Medical Association; Dr. Des Vœux; Mr. E. T. Neathercoat, vice-president, and Mr. Woolcock, secretary, of the Pharmaceutical Society. Dr. Sprigge was appointed secretary and Dr. H. A. Des Vœux, treasurer. The instructions of the meeting to the committee were (1) to communicate with the Belgian Minister and the authorities of the Belgian Relief Fund; (2) to apply to America and other countries if desirable for assistance in the raising of any fund, and (3) to report generally.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE General Education Board has granted \$250,000 to Goucher College, Baltimore, conditionally upon \$750,000 being raised by April 1, 1917.

A FUND of \$60,000 has been turned over to Amherst College by the alumni council. The disposal of the income from this sum is to be

determined by action of the trustees and the council.

THE corporation of Yale University has approved a plan for inviting full professors of the university to meet with the corporation at luncheon from time to time during the academic year.

PLANS for the celebration next June of the semi-centennial anniversary of the founding of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute are rapidly taking definite shape. A program drawn up by a sub-committee consisting of Mr. Rockwood, Mr. Baker and Professor Coombs has been adopted, and the committee of three has been constituted an executive committee to carry it through. The exercises will begin on Sunday, June 6, and close on Thursday, June 10.

A CERTAIN number of Belgian professors and a growing number of students from Louvain, Liège, Ghent and Brussels are now in Cambridge, and although it has proved impossible for the Louvain University to transfer its corporate and official existence to Cambridge, unofficial courses have been instituted, combining, as far as possible, systematic instruction on the lines of the Belgian universities with the individual requirements of refugee students. It is typical of the disastrous conditions in Europe that in view of the appeal issued by the Belgian government for volunteers, it has been decided, in consultation with the Belgian government, that only such students as are physically unfit for military service or have been rejected for other reasons by the Belgian authorities, and are in possession of a certificate to that effect, can be accepted by the hospitality and academic committees.

R. T. BURDICK has been promoted to an assistant professorship of agronomy at the University of Vermont and the State Agricultural College at Burlington.

IN the chemistry department of Wesleyan University: Dr. M. L. Crossley, professor of organic chemistry at William Jewell College until 1913 and lecturer in Wesleyan University, 1913-14, has been appointed associate professor and acting head of the department.

Dr. H. Lee Ward has been appointed associate professor in the department.

JAMES MURRAY, B.S.A., manager of the farm of the Canadian Wheat Lands, Limited, at Suffield, Alberta, has been appointed to the chair of cereal husbandry in Macdonald College, McGill University, in succession to Professor L. S. Klinck, who resigned on August 1, to accept the deanship of the College of Agriculture of the University of British Columbia. Mr. Murray was formerly (1906-1911) superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Farm at Brandon, Manitoba.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### CAHOKIA MOUND

IN this journal, August 28, 1914, Mr. A. R. Crook presented a brief note on the origin of Cahokia Mound. The communication is here quoted in full:

A study of the materials composing the so-called Monks or Cahokia Mound, in Madison County, Ill., establishes, beyond doubt, that it is not of artificial origin, as has been so generally held, but that it is a remnant remaining after the erosion of the alluvial deposits, which at one time filled the valley of the Mississippi, in the locality known as the "Great American Bottoms."

For the benefit of those who may not be familiar with the subject, and for this reason may be misled, we desire to say the statement made by Mr. Crook is erroneous and without the slightest degree of reason, and his conclusion would apply equally well to the pyramids of Gizeh or the ruins of the valley of Mexico.

Cahokia, by reason of its magnitude and importance, has led many to discuss its probable origin. Three theories have been advanced: (1) It is the belief of some that Cahokia is a natural formation. (2) Others regard the lower part natural and the upper part artificial. (3) Some, acknowledging it to be the work of man, believe it to have been erected at a period when the Mississippi flowed between it and the line of bluffs to the eastward, thus placing the mound on the right bank of the stream. However, no one of the